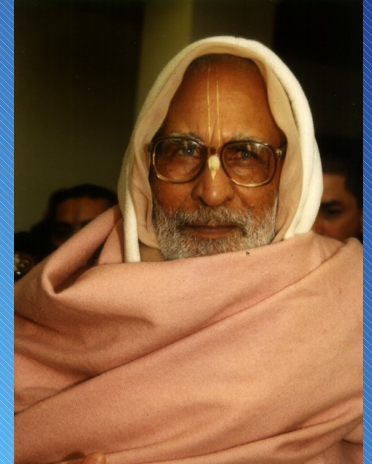


Gokul Bhajan & Vedic Studies

The Fearless Prince Story and Teachings of Sri Prahlad Maharaja

*Jagad-guru
Nitya-lila-pravista
Om Vishnupada
Astottara-sara Śr
Sri Srimad
Bhakti-vedanta
Narayana Gosvami
Maharaja*





Introduction

- Vedic scriptures are the original literatures
- Śrīla Veda-vyāsa recorded them
- Knowledge of material & spiritual realms
- Lasting happiness from Devotional Service
- Kṛṣṇa is source of all incarnations

This sublime literature presents the highest truths, explaining that the purpose of human

- **Śrī Kṛṣṇa is the original form of Godhead**

Lord Narasimha-deva

- The half-lion, half-man incarnation
- Came to save Prahlāda
- Prahlāda born in demon family
- Father highly inimical to Śrī Kṛṣṇa
- Prahlāda has exemplary character
- Prahlāda is a pure devotee





Good qualities of Prahlāda

- Humble
- Tolerant
- Never envious of others
- Undisturbed in danger
- Devoid of material desires



Hiraṇya-kaśipu

- Possessed a demoniac nature
- Twin brother – Hiraṇyākṣa
- Both brothers are vile
- Inauspicious omens at birth
- Cows yielded blood
- Clouds rained pus
- Trees fell down for no reason



Two Demoniac Brothers

- Uncommon bodily features
- Steel-like frames
- Grew like two great mountains
- Tall – Touching outer space
- Earth shook when they walked



Hiranyaksha

Hiraṇyākṣa

- Hot-tempered Hiraṇyākṣa
- Took a club on his shoulder
- Terrified everyone
- Fought with Lord Viṣṇu
- Boar incarnation killed him



Hiraṇya-kaśipu angry

- Lord Viṣṇu killed his brother
- Very aggrieved
- Vowed to cut off Viṣṇu's head
- Killed cows
- Stopped sacrifices



Hiranya-kaśipu's austerities

- * Wanted to be immortal
- * Stood on toes for 22,000 years
- * Fire blazing from his head
- * All planets became too hot
- * Demigods appeal to Brahmā



Brahmā grants boon

- Austerities impress Brahmā
- Brahmā sprinkles divine water
- Completely revitalized
- Rules with a heavy hand
- Demigods must worship him



The Lord's Grandeur

- Śrī Kṛṣṇa attracts all
- Prahlāda is a devotee
- Mood of awe and reverence
- Very humble and tolerant
- Prahlāda differs from father

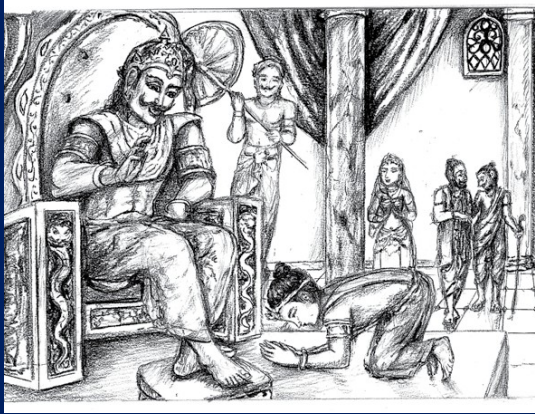


Teach My Boy to Be Just like Me

- Śukrācārya was absent
- Ṣaṇḍa & Amarka are teachers
- Ṣaṇḍa means 'bull'
- Lusty and dangerous
- Arka means 'light'

Teach My Boy to Be Just like Me

- Amarka – there is no light
- No light
- No realization of the self
- Economic Development
- Sense Gratification



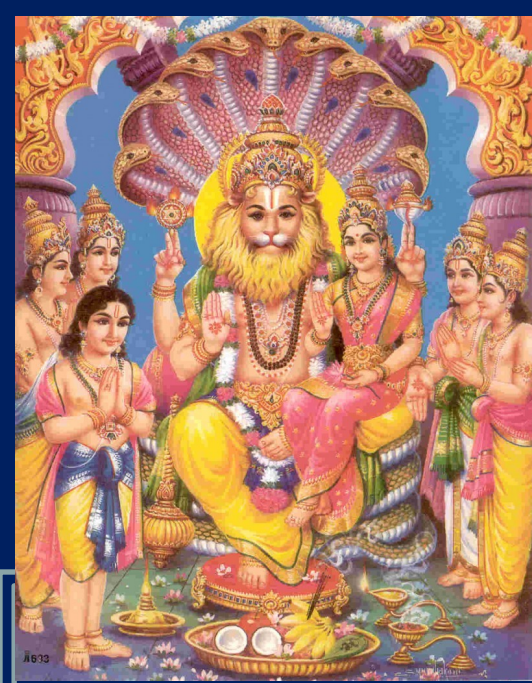


Teach My Boy to Be Just like Me

- Mundane religious duties
- Liberation
- Politics
- How to defeat enemies
- How to acquire kingdoms

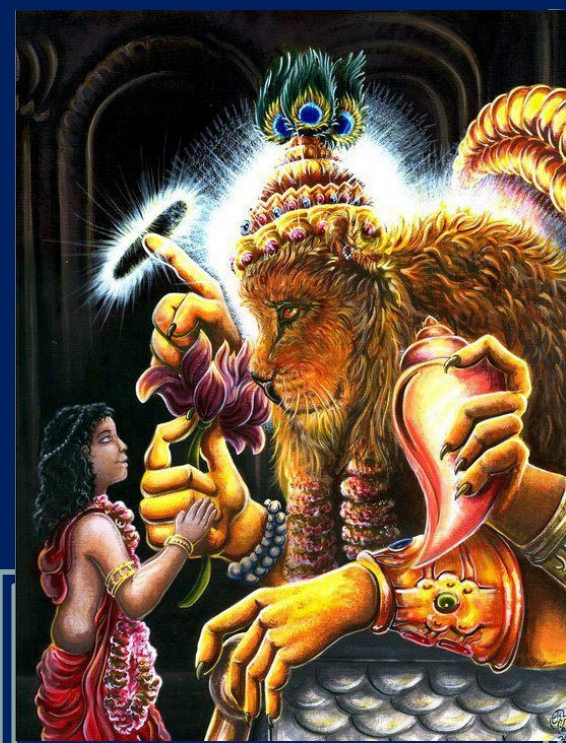
Hiraṇya-kaśipu's questions

- What have you been studying?
- Best thing you have learned
- Prahlāda's devotion shines forth
- Nine processes of *bhakti*
- Hearing about Krishna (Parikṣit)



Prahlāda's answers

- Chanting about Kṛṣṇa (Śukadeva)
- Name, form, qualities & pastimes
- Remembering Kṛṣṇa (Prahlāda)
- *prahlādaḥ śravaṇe*
- Hare Kṛṣṇa *japa* is remembrance



Prahlāda's answers

- Serving lotus feet (Lakṣmī)
- Respectful worship (Pṛthu)
- Offering prayers (Akrūra)
- Becoming servant (Hanumān)
- Considering Kṛṣṇa best friend



Prahlāda's answers



- * Friendship (Arjuna)
- * Surrendering everything (Bali)
- * Serving by body, mind & words
- * Nine processes of bhakti
- * Devotee is a learned person

Hiraṇya-kaśipu's Fury



- * I brought you into this world
- * I maintain you
- * I give you everything
- * You are ungrateful
- * Take side of my enemy

Hiraṇya-kaśipu's Fury

- * Śukrācarya is not a fool
- * Am I a fool?
- * Take Prahlāda and teach politics
- * How to control subjects
- * How to conquer others



Back to School and Again Home



- * What you learned in school?
- * Human form of life is for worship
- * Senses are uncontrolled
- * Chewing the chewed
- * No profit in materialistic life



Back to School and Again Home

- * Guru cannot be blind man
- * Blind cannot lead another blind
- * Guru must know purpose of life
- * Blind Guru goes to hell with disciples
- * I worshiped Brahmā for 20,000 years



Hiraṇya-kaśipu threatens Prahlāda

- * I shall put an end to you
- * Prahlāda Mahārāja remained fearless
- * Dear father, give up egotistical ways
- * Take shelter of such a bona fide guru
- * Guru devoted to service to Śrī Kṛṣṇa.



Futile Attempts to Kill Prahlāda

- * Bring mad elephants to attack him
- * Throw into a pit of venomous snakes
- * Bind him to a rock and drown in ocean
- * Crush him with onslaught of boulders
- * Lord foiled every scheme to kill him



Lord saves Prahlāda

- * Prahlāda's touch electrified elephants
- * Elephants ran away
- * Lions befriended the boy
- * Lord Viṣṇu saved Prahlāda from ocean
- * The soldiers' swords could not cut him



Holikā

- * Hiranya-kaśipu's powerful sister
- * Has mystic perfection - *siddhi*
- * Could enter blazing fire & not get burnt
- * Take Prahlaḍa in arms & enter a big fire
- * Prahlaḍa's auntie happy to comply

Holikā



- * A huge fire was ignited
- * Holikā decorated herself nicely
- * Happily took Prahāda in her arms
- * Fire could not touch Prahāda
- * Holika was at once burnt to ashes

Great Emperor Begins to Worry

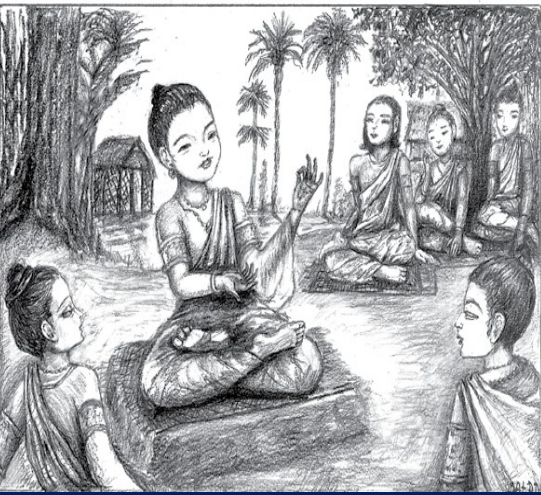


- * All my efforts to kill him failed
- * This boy has some mystic powers
- * “I am immortal by Brahmā's boon”
- * But now Emperor is afraid
- * Śaṇḍa and Amarka reassure him

Back to School



- * Prahlāda is forced to return
- * Attempts to divert his propensity
- * Instill father's lust for dominion
- * How to cheat others
- * How to become vastly wealthy



Prahlāda becomes Monitor

- * Teachers leave for some business
- * Look after the other children.
- * Make sure that they do not quarrel
- * They should be calm and quiet
- * Prahlāda educates class-mates

Start Bhakti Right Now

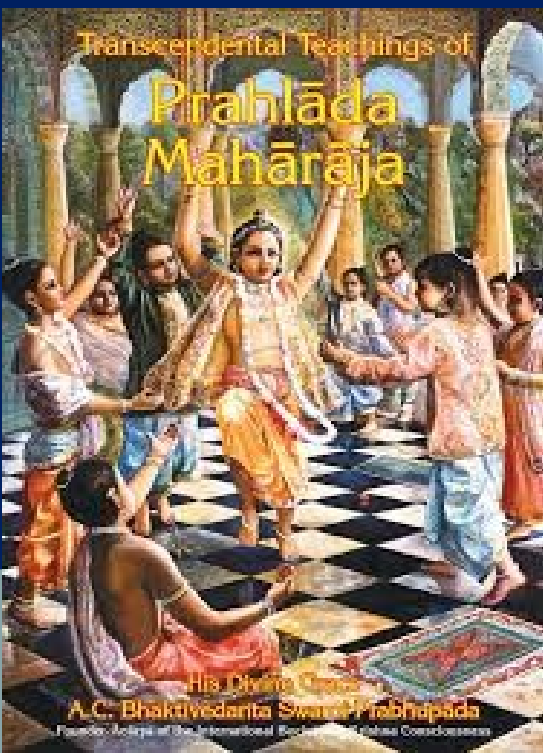
- * Some say: nature is source of everything
- * Nature is the power of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.
- * Creates & controls millions of universes
- * In a moment He can destroy them.
- * He is supremely powerful





Prahlāda's Powerful Instructions

- * Begin spiritual life from a young age
- * Waste no time in enjoying material life
- * Begin today instead of tomorrow
- * Do it now instead of today
- * Chant 'Hare Kṛṣṇa' *mahā-mantra*



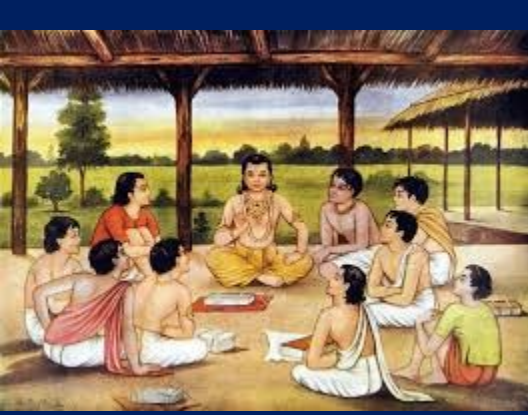
Prahlāda's Powerful Instructions

- * Old age and disease are bound to come
- * Wealth and reputation are temporary
- * You will have to leave them behind
- * Human life is precious
- * Goal of it is to discover one's real identity



Prahlāda's Powerful Instructions

- * Devotional service is natural
- * Kṛṣṇa is the creator & master of the soul
- * Kṛṣṇa is well-wisher of all living entities
- * Must take shelter of the Supreme Lord
- * Whole-heartedly engage in His service



Prahlāda's Powerful Instructions

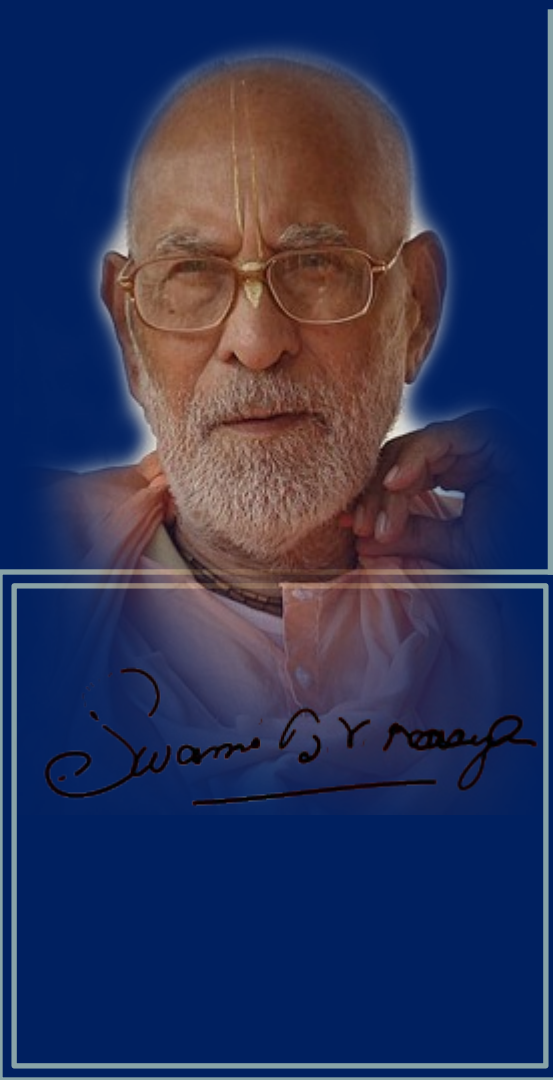
- * Bhakti frees one from material desires
- * One relishes bliss of devotional service
- * Meditate and worship Lord Kṛṣṇa
- * Don't waste time in politics
- * Kṛṣṇa is causelessly merciful



Leader of the boys challenges

- * Why should chant the name of Kṛṣṇa?
- * Why should we meditate on him?
- * We are young
- * Why should we not play?
- * Later we can be expert in making money

Material Life Is Temporary



- * Who knows if you will reach old age?
- * First disease will come
- * Then you will die
- * Today, tomorrow or even now
- * Airplane can suddenly fail



Old age is troublesome

- * Cannot sit straight to chant Hari-nāma
- * Many diseases will come
- * Daughter-in-law creates many problems
- * you will not be able to chant She will beat your back with a broom
- * She will make your back very clean





Not possible to chant in old age

- * Cannot chant and remember
- * Your throat may choke with mucus
- * You may become mad or senile
- * Many problems can distract you
- * Life is to revive our lost relationship

Material Attachments



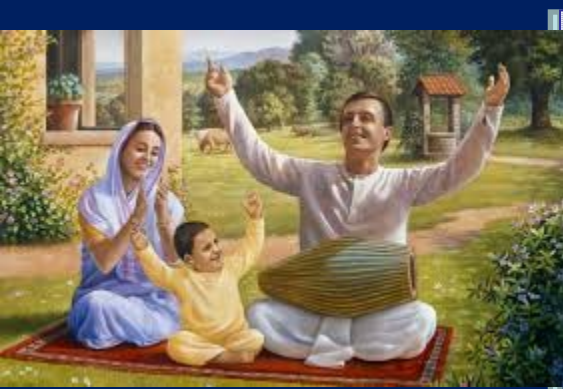
- * Material attachments are dangerous
- * They keep you from taking up *bhakti*
- * Do not marry in the old age
- * Cannot give up young wife and children
- * Cannot give up very old father

you will not be able to chant

Awakening of Consciousness



- * I am an eternal living being
- * Only happiness is in serving Bhagavān
- * Give up all plans to enjoy material world
- * you will not be able to chant Chant and remember Śrī Kṛṣṇa now
- * Human life is rarely achieved



Devotion to Kṛṣṇa gives Happiness

- * From boyhood devote yourself to Kṛṣṇa
- * Start to practice even if you are 50 years
- * Why waste time in sense gratification?
- * Sense gratification available in all species
- * A dog or a pig can have unlimited wives



Animals are Superior Enjoyers

- * No need to maintain children
- * No court for divorce or alimony
- * Humans can rarely have twins or triplets
- * Animals can have upto 16 babies
- * So better to focus on *bhakti* & not *bhoga*



Even Children must chant



- * Chant Śrī Kṛṣṇa's names from early age
- * Suffering comes without invitation
- * Birth, disease, old age and death
- * Quarrels with the neighbours
- * Government also creates many problems



Hardships need no invitation



- * Hardships come without a warning
- * This holds true for happiness
- * Happiness due to past pious activities
- * Happiness comes automatically
- * No need to work for happiness

Belief in God gives Happiness



- * No need to endeavor for happiness
- * Must taste reactions to past karma
- * Why waste time worrying about duality
- * The holy name of Kṛṣṇa is very powerful
- * His names are even more merciful



Hare Kṛṣṇa not a mundane sound

- * Hare Kṛṣṇa vibration is very powerful
- * Must chant since beginning of our life
- * One lives only for 100 years in Kali-yuga
- * Satya-yuga life-span 100,000 years
- * Tretā-yug life-span 10,000 years



Many vices in Kali-yuga



- * Whiskey, cigarettes, tobacco, eggs, meat
- * Tuberculosis, cancer and other ailments
- * Newer diseases that none can cure
- * Result of excessive indulgence is disease
- * Half of time is lost in sleep



Marriage increases needs

- * People marry many times
- * They get divorced then remarry
- * Marriage brings children
- * Children need education
- * Car and other furnishings are essential



VectorStock®

VectorStock.com/32813244

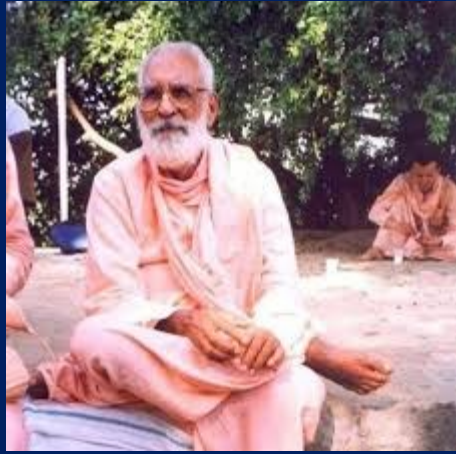


© Can Stock Photo - csp36128881

Boys ask—what should we do

- * Don't worry about making money
- * Don't worry about achieving happiness
- * Don't endeavor to avoid suffering
- * Fate decides happiness and distress
- * We don't old age, but it will come



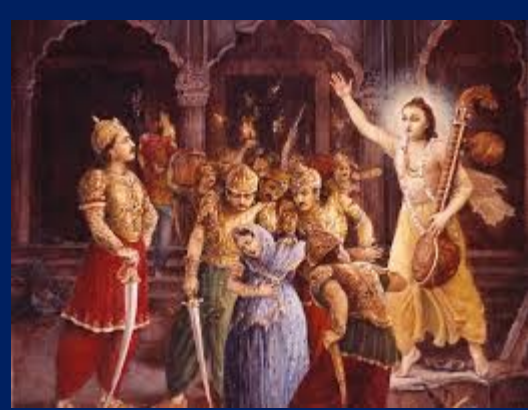


Panacea

- * Chanting “Hare Kṛṣṇa” is the panacea
- * Chanting breaks cycle of birth & death
- * First take shelter of a bona fide guru
- * Guru— more dear than mother & friend
- * You must serve the Spiritual Master

Where did you learn this

- * Hiraṇya-kaśipu was doing austerities
- * Kayādhū was pregnant
- * She stayed in the āśrama of Nārada Muni
- * Prahlāda heard scriptures in the womb
- * He was already a realized soul





Prahlāda convinces boys

- * All students started chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa
- * Hiraṇya-kāśipu heard children singing
- * My son has deliberately defied me
- * He has made all the boy rebellious
- * Children just started laughing



Hiraṇya-kaśipu is furious



- * He takes sword and club in his hands
- * Threatens Prahlāda
- * Have you no fear?
- * Kṛṣṇa saves you and me – both
- * Kṛṣṇa is everywhere and in everything



Hiraṇya-kaśipu is furious

- * Is in this pillar?
- * There is no place He is not.
- * I do not see Him
- * But I see Him – My Viṣṇu is there
- * I am going to kill you – see if Viṣṇu saves

Hiraṇya-kaśipu is furious

- * Demon picked up a sword
- * Struck the pillar with his bare fist
- * Tumultuous roaring sound came
- * Most wonderful creature burst forth
- * Huge and ferocious head of lion





Lord looked ferocious & menacing

- * Flames coming out of mane
- * Appeared as if the whole world is on fire
- * “Is this a man or a lion”
- * They fought like two giant wrestlers
- * Lord tightly grabbed of the demon

Demon fights with the Lord

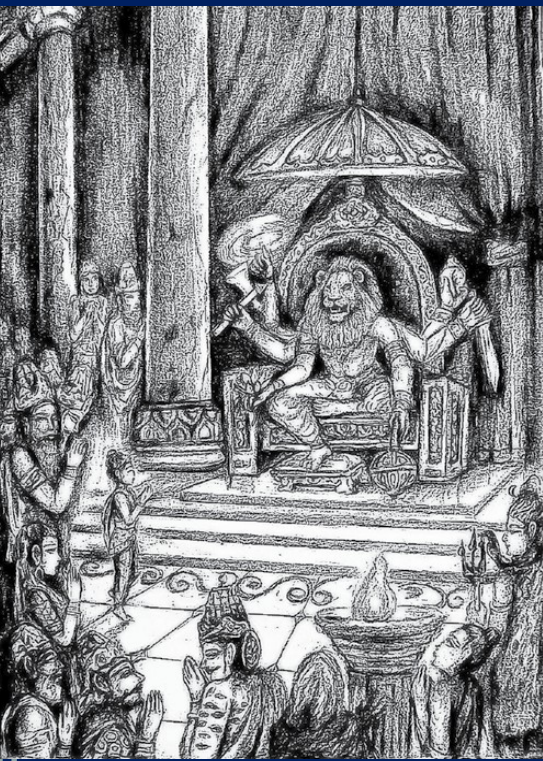
- * Demon escaped from Lord's hands
- * Demigods cried “Alas! Alas”
- * Garuda plays with snakes
- * Lord played with the demon
- * Lord captured and took him on the lap





The End of the Demon

- * Lord ripped open the demon's stomach
- * He pulled out demon's intestines
- * Intestines around the neck like a garland
- * Lord continued to roar in anger
- * Lord killed the demon in the evening



The End of the Demon

- * Killed by huge and beautiful nails
- * Killed in the Puruṣottama (*adhika*) *māsa*
- * Not killed in any of the twelve months
- * Killed in the evening (no day or night)
- * Killed him in the doorway



Lord's love for Prahlāda

- * Lord was angry
- * Śiva and Brahmā cannot approach
- * Lakṣmī did not dare to pacify
- * They requested Prahlāda to pacify Lord
- * Lord's anger vanished on seeing Prahlāda

Lord asks forgiveness

- * Excuse me for taking so long
- * Had to wait for the right time
- * You tolerated so much
- * Wanted to reward you with benediction
- * Lord offered liberation like Śiśupāla



Lord offers benediction

- * Prahlāda rejected impersonal liberation
- * O Lord! Please remove wordly desires.
- * Liberate my father
- * Twenty-one generations are delivered
- * Please liberate all and let me suffer



Unwavering faith

- * Prahlāda tolerated all the difficulties
- * The Lord is transcendent
- * Prahlāda always thought of His majesty
- * Become bold like Prahlāda
- * Prahlāda's kingdom became Vaikuṇṭha



Hare Krishna

References

- *The Fearless Prince* <http://www.purebhakti.com>
-

Thank You!